

Tony Thinking Aloud ci

We come to the traditional week in the Church that leads to Easter Sunday – Holy Week. Beginning with Palm Sunday when Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem, he rode a donkey. People pulled down palm branches to wave and cheer him! Just as many will cheer the Queen at the Platinum Jubilee.

Palm Crosses are traditionally given to everyone who comes to church. It is significant to remember everyone has a palm cross...Jesus came for us all. The message is we all benefit from his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter helps us to remember Jesus came to show us death is not an end.

I often watch 'Songs of Praise' on a Sunday at which very large congregations sing the hymns. We do not often think about it, but recently I reflected, watching the folk sing, that everyone is so personally different, only a few cases are there with a distinct family resemblance. It is an incredible part of creation especially in our understanding that Jesus came for each of us! Reflect there potentially is a palm cross for everyone on Palm Sunday not just a few people.

So, these are the symbols of Holy Week – the Palm Cross this Sunday, the Cross and Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. Originally folk would only eat a small amount of bread (or nothing at all) on the morning of Good Friday. Hot Cross Buns developed from that practice.

The eggs, chocolate, lilies are all Easter celebrations. (Remember some will not have had eggs or chocolate during Lent. The pancakes on Pancake Day were to use up the eggs!). People take part in this keeping of Easter even if it does not mean much more to them than perhaps a family meal and a holiday!

People in general have hope, are forward looking and positive, and this too is the essence of Easter. The message of Jesus helps very many in thinking of a life to come.